

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ABF-01 SY-05 L-03 A-01 SCA-01 SS-15

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O 131047Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 11

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STADIS//////////

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, CRPS, OGENAPERD

REF: STATE 189997

SUBJECT: GAO DRAFT REPORT ON ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF  
AMERICANS OVERSEAS DURING CYPRUS CRISIS OF 1974

1. AS GEANEAS IS IN THESSALONIKI FOLLOWING COMMENTS DO NOT INCLUDE HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO QUESTIONS, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN CLEARED BY APPROPRIATE ADMIN PERSONNEL. IN GENERAL WE AGREE WITH DEPT'S REACTION TO THE DRAFT GAO REPORT AS EXPRESSED IN PARAS 2 AND 4 OF REFTEL. FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE KEYED TO GAO COMMENTS QUOTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL UNDER (A) THROUGH (K).

2. (A) AND (B) NO COMMENT.

(C) GAO REPORT CORRECT IN STATING ONLY FOUR CONSULAR OFFICERS WERE IN ATHENS SAT MORNING, JULY 20. ONE CONSULAR OFFICER HAD WITH EXPRESS CONCURRENCE POLITICAL SECTION TRAVELED BY EARLY MORNING PLANE TO RHODES ON CONSULAR BUSINESS. A SECOND OFFICER WAS AWAY FROM ATHENS SAT BUT RETURNED TO POST SUN MORNING. ALSO CORRECT THAT PREVIOUS CONSUL GENERAL DEPARTED ATHENS ON TRANSFER DURING MIDDLE OF JUNE, BEFORE EVENTS SPARKED BY ATTEMPTED COUP ON JULY 15. SIMILARLY SECOND  
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RANKING CONSULAR OFFICER DEPARTED POST DURING MID JUNE

FOR HOME LEAVE WITH CONCURRENCE POST AND DEPT. THIRD RANKING OFFICER WAS FSR OFFICER HOLDING CONSULAR COMMISSION. LATTER ENTIRELY CAPABLE OF MANAGING SECTION IN ABSENCE OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS.

(D) NO COMMENT AS (C) RELATES.

(E) AS CRISIS DEVELOPED JUL 20 AMERICAN TOURISTS FOUND THEMSELVES UNABLE LEAVE ATHENS AND UNABLE CASH PERSONAL CHECKS OWING TO CLOSURE OF AIRPORT AND BANKS. LATTER REOPENED MON MORNING, JUL 22. OVER WEEKEND LARGE NUMBERS AMERICAN TOURISTS CAME TO EMBASSY SEEKING INFORMATION RELATED TO CRISIS AND REOPENING OF AIRPORT. SOME AMERICANS, FINDING THEMSELVES SHORT OF CASH, REQUESTED EMBASSY TO PROVIDE CHECK CASHING SERVICES. AS DEPT AWARE, FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY CASH PERSONAL CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS OFFERED BY PRIVATE CITIZENS. AS VAST MAJORITY OF CITIZENS VISITING EMBASSY WANTED CURRENT INFO, AND EMBASSY NOT CONFIGURED TO RECEIVE SUCH LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, ARRANGEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN FRONT OF ENTRANCE WHERE PEOPLE MIGHT GATHER IN SHADE TO RECEIVE PERIODIC BRIEFINGS AND HAVE INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS ANSWERED. AT NO TIME RPT NO TIME WERE INDIVIDUALS REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO BUILDING. TO CONTRARY, AMERICANS SEEKING SPECIFIC CONSULAR SERVICES, SUCH AS PASSPORTS, REGISTRATION, LOANS, ETC. WERE INTERVIEWED AND OTHERWISE ASSISTED WITHIN THE BUILDING AS IS NORMALLY THE CASE. TO HAVE ADMITTED THE OVERALL CROWD OF PEOPLE SEEKING ONLY INFORMATION WOULD HAVE DISRUPTED THE PROVISION OF SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AND MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE PROVIDED ORDERLY CONTROL OF THE CROWD, AND INFORMATION BRIEFINGS.

(G) SEE ITEM (F) RELATING TO INABILITY OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS TO PROVIDE CASHING FACILITIES TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

(H) NO FURTHER COMMENT.

(I) QUESTION OF TREATIES COVERING RIGHTS OF US CITIZENS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN GREECE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH CRISIS MANAGEMENT OF LAST JULY. HOWEVER, AS DEPT IS AWARE, VARIOUS TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS TOGETHER WITH INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM COMBINE TO ESTABLISH SETTING WITHIN WHICH RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN GREECE ARE PROTECTED. HOWEVER, CONSULAR TREATY OF 1902 REPEAT 1902 REMAINS VERY APPLICABLE TO PROTECTION OF AMERICANS AS IT GUARANTEES RIGHT OF CONSULAR OFFICERS TO INTERCEDE WITH OFFICIALS FOR

PURPOSE OF PROTECTING RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF COUNTRYMEN. SIMILARLY IT PROVIDES FOR PROTECTION OF ESTATES OF DECEASED AMERICANS. ARTICLE 4 OF THE FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION TREATY IS OF COURSE PERTINENT AS WELL AS IT GUARANTEES REASONABLE AND HUMANE TREATMENT AND THE OTHER PROTECTIONS NORMALLY PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS UNDER INVESTIGATION OR ARREST IN A CIVILIZED COUNTRY.

(J) AND (K) NO COMMENT.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS NO INFO CONCERNING THE QUESTION POSED IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL. HOWEVER STAFFING OF THE SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES AND CITIZENSHIP UNIT IN 1973 PROVIDED FOR TWO OFFICERS, BY NO MEANS AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER. TO THE CONTRARY, DURING THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE INFORMALLY INCREASED THE STAFFING TO THREE OFFICERS THROUGH THE DETAIL OF ONE OFFICER FROM THE VISA UNIT. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE THE EMBASSY IN ITS RECENT CONSULAR PACKAGE REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER POSITION TO BE USED SPECIFICALLY FOR PROTECTION AND WELFARE PURPOSES. SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT WOULD PERMIT RETURN OF THE BORROWED POSITION TO THE VISA UNIT.

4. IN CONCLUSION, THE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A BETTER POSITION IF ALL OFFICERS HAD BEEN AVAILABLE JULY 20. HOWEVER, THIS IS HINDSIGHT, AS SELDOM ARE ALL AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL AT POST AT THE SAME TIME, GIVEN TRANSFER AND LEAVE SCHEDULES, ETC. CONCERNING COMPLAINTS IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NONE OF THOSE CITED BY GAO AS LETTERS TO CONGRESSMEN WERE REFERRED TO THE EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION OR SPECIFIC COMMENT.  
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